

FULL-TIME KINDERGARTEN 2007 CONFERENCE



Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
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CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday, August 9

- 5:00 pm **Registration Begins**
 - Cube Lounge - Campus Center
- 6:30 pm **Dinner - Sponsored by MEA-MFT**
 - All Saints Hall - Campus Center

Welcome: State Superintendent Linda McCulloch

Great Falls Public Schools Panel Discussion

Great Falls Public Schools will present on their Full-Time Kindergarten Program. They will discuss the rationale for starting their program, communication with their community, the logistics of how they got it started, successes they have seen, and strategies for continued success as students age. Panelists will include: Former Great Falls Superintendent Bryan Dunn, Former Assistant Superintendent Lonnie Yingst, Mountain View School Principal Carol McKittrick, and Great Falls Teachers.



Friday, August 10

- 7:00 am **Registration**
 - Cube Lounge - Campus Center
- 7:30 am **Breakfast**
 - All Saints Hall - Campus Center
- 8:30 am **Opening Speaker: Linda McCulloch, State Superintendent of Public Instruction**
- 9:00 – 10:00 am **Keynote Address: Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan**

Dr. Kagan will present the rationale for Full-Time Kindergarten, the research surrounding it, and what other states are doing. She will also discuss the importance of kindergarten as the pivotal link between preschool and primary education.

- 10:15 – 11:45 am **Breakout Sessions**

Dave Nelson – Box Elder Elementary Principal
- O'Connell Hall Room 107

Full-Time Kindergarten at Box Elder Elementary

Traditional half-day kindergarten has been an important transition between home and day-care settings to elementary school. Time constraints did not allow for maximum student learning potential to be achieved. This presentation will focus on the academic successes that have been realized through Box Elder Elementary's implementation of full-day kindergarten and will provide educators with a useable template for a typical kindergarten day.

Marni Napierala, Instructional Coach for Great Falls Public Schools

Amber Rausch, Kindergarten Teacher at Sunnyside Elementary for Great Falls Public Schools -

- O'Connell Hall Room 106

Discovery Based Math

In this sectional, participants will understand the importance of building a strong mathematical foundation starting in kindergarten. Topics will include: research to support hands on exploration, using literature to make math come alive, and teaching by concepts for conceptual understanding. Discovery lessons will be modeled.

Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan

- Trinity Hall Lounge

Current issues in early childhood education

This session will examine the most current issues in the field and will provide time for detailed conversation with Sharon Lynn Kagan. Topics can include: assessment, accountability, push down curriculum, transition to school, and professional development.

12:00 – 1:30 pm

Lunch

Remarks by Governor Brian Schweitzer

- All Saints Hall Campus Center

Panel Discussion from School Administrators on Full-Time Kindergarten

Panelists will include: Josh Middleton, Laurel Public Schools Superintendent; Ron Whitmoyer, East Helena Public Schools Superintendent; Joe McMahon, East Helena Elementary Principal; and Dave Nelson, Box Elder Elementary Principal.

Topics of discussion will include adapting curriculum, assessment, developmental vs. academic programs, dos and don'ts, communicating with your community, balancing half and full-time programs, and more. Conference attendees will have the chance to submit questions for the panelists.

1:45 – 3:15 pm

Breakout Sessions

Terri Middagh – Kindergarten Teacher at Bryant Elementary in Helena

Karen Mikota – Kindergarten Teacher at Broadwater Elementary in Helena

- O'Connell Hall Room 106

A Day in the Life of a Full-Time Kindergarten Teacher with a Developmental Approach

This sectional will focus on topics relative to implementation of a Full Time Kindergarten program. Information on scheduling, curriculum, assessments, stations, developmental stages of five and six year olds, and daily management tools to assist with a smooth transition for students, parents, and teachers will be discussed.

Joe McMahon – East Helena Elementary Principal

- O'Connell Hall Room 107

Eastgate Elementary School's Full-Time Kindergarten Program

Eastgate Elementary School in East Helena, Montana, began the transition from a traditional half day program to the current full day kindergarten model during the 2004-05 school year. The school and district began with full day, every other day classes and have progressed to offering full day, every day classes to all of its 125 kindergartners. Eastgate Principal, Joe McMahon, will give a recount of the District's travels along with lessons learned on the journey. AIMS Web reading data from the previous three years along with current class schedules will be shared.

Carol Mielke – Meadowlark Elementary 1st Grade teacher in Conrad, former Kindergarten Teacher of 15 years, and Differentiation Instructor\

- Trinity Hall

Differentiation

Differentiated Instruction is a “natural” in the kindergarten classroom, and with the new all-day schedules, you’ll have more opportunities to meet the needs of all learners. This session will show you how to get to know your students, and then use that knowledge to meet their needs through a variety of avenues to appropriately challenge them. On-going assessment, learning centers, flexible grouping, and scaffolding will be just a few of the differentiated topics covered, with particular attention to the unique challenges of the kindergarten learner.

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Breakout Sessions

Kathi Tiefenthaler – OPI Reading First Specialist

- O’Connell Hall Room 107

DIBELS: Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills

Do you need a quick assessment to determine if your students are on track for success in reading? Do you use assessments that are time consuming and cumbersome? This session will provide an overview of DIBELS: Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills that are given during kindergarten. It will also explain what the information means for instruction.

Jill Christensen and Lindsey Wicks – Kindergarten Teachers at Valley View Elementary in Great Falls

- O’Connell Hall Room 106

A Day in the Life of a Full-Time Kindergarten Teacher with an Academic Approach

Presentation will include outlines of daily schedules, assessment tools, writing examples, and samples of kindergarten activities including games. We will also discuss strategies to organize, integrate and schedule reading, math, and writing into a Full-Time Kindergarten Day.

Tara Ferriter-Smith – OPI Special Education Instructional Strategy Specialist and Former Kindergarten Teacher

- Trinity Hall

Teaching Phonemic Awareness and Phonics

The goal of this training is to enhance participant knowledge of effective instructional practices that promote early reading success. We will examine research-based strategies for teaching phonological awareness, which are the sounds in spoken language, and phonics, which is the written representation of our language. Participants will explore new instructional practices and activities to teach rhyming, sentence segmentation, syllables, onset and rime, isolating initial phonemes, as well as blending and segmenting phonemes. At the end of this session participants will better understand how to effectively teach phonics and phonemic awareness to Kindergarten students.

5:00 – 5:30 pm

Informal Networking

- Cube lounge - Campus Center

